

III. REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is being filed in response to the non-final Office Action mailed by the Patent Office on January 13, 2003. Claims 1-27 are pending in this application: claims 1, 3-5 and 8-15 stand as rejected, claims 2, 6, and 7 stand as objected to, and claims 15-27 stand as allowed by the Patent Office. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled and claims 2-4 and 6-14 have been amended. Allowed claims 15-27 have also been amended (non-substantively) to remove the reference numerals that originally appeared in each claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and remarks made herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

On page 2 of the non-final Office Action of January 13, 2003, the Patent Office indicated that claims 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stephens. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled, rendering moot further discussion thereof, and claims 3-4 and 8-12 have been amended to be consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter appearing on page 3 of the Office Action (see discussion below). Additionally, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Patent Office indicated that claim 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 have been amended to be consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter appearing on page 3 of the Office Action (see discussion below).

Allowable Subject Matter and Allowed Claims

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Patent Office indicated that claims 2, 6, and 7 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim and has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 2 originally depended. Claims 3-4 and 8-14 have all been amended to depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 2, and because amended independent claim 2 is believed to be patentable, the amended claims depending from claim 2 are also believed to be patentable. Claims 6 and 7 have also been

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Amendment and Response to First Office Action

U.S. Serial No. 09/989,783

Express Mail No. EL 494323312 US

rewritten as independent claims and have been amended to included all of the limitations of claim 1, from which both of these claims originally depended.

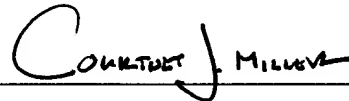
Regarding the claims indicated as allowed on page 3 of the Office Action, these claims have been amended (non-substantively) to remove the reference numerals originally included in the claims and to correct certain grammatical inconsistencies.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth herein, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 20, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney J. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "C" and "M".

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